IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 8 and 11-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

a receiving unit receiving an area identification representing a geographical position of one of the clients and identification information of contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients, and

a selecting unit selecting one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested, and which child server is closest to the one of the clients that originates the distribution request, using the received area identification and identification information, and notifying the one of the clients that originates the distribution request of logical position information of the selected one of the child servers, and

each child server comprises:

a distributing unit distributing the contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:

the parent server further comprises an ascertaining unit ascertaining a presence or an absence of the distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in an area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

the child server further comprises an acquiring unit acquiring and copying from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of the ascertained presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining the presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child servers is responsible, and

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by the parent server.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining a presence or an absence of a distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in an area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

each child server comprises:

an acquiring unit acquiring and copying from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers on a basis of the ascertained presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein the child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining the presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of the

distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein the child server further comprises:

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by the parent server.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable medium that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the computer program product comprising:

selecting one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested and that is closest to one of the clients that made the distribution request on a basis of an area identification representing a geographical position of the one of the clients that makes the distribution request for the contents and identification information of the contents, the distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients; and

communicating ~~the~~ logical position information of the selected one of the child servers to the one of the clients that makes the distribution request.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable medium that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers, and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the computer program product comprising:

ascertaining a presence or an absence of a distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests of the contents from the clients situated within an area for which one of the child servers is responsible; and

giving the one of the child servers notification to prompt copying from the parent server of the contents that are not held by the child server, or deleting from the one of the child servers the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of the ascertained presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable medium that operates on a child server in a distribution system having a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the computer program product comprising:

a program code copying to one of the child servers from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers, or deleting from the child server the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of a presence or an absence of a distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the clients situated in an area for which one of the child servers is responsible.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

receiving identification information by the parent server of the contents, distribution of which ~~distribution~~ is requested and an area identification representing a geographical position of one of the clients that makes the request for the distribution of the contents;

selecting by the parent server, on a basis of the received area identification of the one of the clients and contents identification information, one of the child servers which has the contents that is requested for distribution and that is closest to the one of the clients that makes the request for distribution, and notifying the one of the clients that makes the request for distribution of ~~the received~~ logical position information of the selected one of the child servers; and

distributing the contents, distribution of which is requested by the selected one of the child servers, in response to the request of the one of the clients .

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

ascertaining a presence or an absence of a distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests in respect of the contents from the clients situated in an area for which one of the child servers is responsible;

copying the contents which are not held on the one of the child servers from the parent server to the one of the child servers, or deleting the contents from the one of the child servers

on a basis of the ascertained presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests; and

performing the distribution from the one of the child server servers in response to the distribution request for the contents held by the one of the child ~~server~~ servers from the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child server servers is responsible.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to a plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the clients communicate to the parent server an area identification representing a geographical position of one of the clients and identification information of contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients,

the parent server selects, on a basis of the area identification of the one of the clients and the contents identification information that is communicated thereto, one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested and that is closest to the one of the clients that originates the distribution request, and communicates ~~the~~ logical position information of the selected one of the child servers to the one of the clients originating the distribution request; and

the one of the clients that originates the distribution request receives the contents, distribution of which is requested from the selected one of the child servers, on the basis of the logical position information of the selected one of the child servers.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 13, wherein receipt performed by the one of the clients of the contents from the selected one of the child servers is conducted using a program downloaded to the one of the clients from the parent server when the request for the distribution of the contents is made.